

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02098 190553Z

17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-07 L-02 SP-02 /025 W  
----- 088301

R 190424Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2601

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2098

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH, SN

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PROSPECTS FOR AIR SIAM

REF: A. STATE 106914 NOTAL B. ENGELBRECHT LETTER TO PARR  
(AMEMBASSY BANGKOK) OF 3/18/75

1. AIR CHARTER ENTERPRISES IS WHOLLY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE AND ITS PRIMARY ACTIVITY IS COMMERCIAL LEASING OF AIRCRAFT. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969 AND WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO OPERATE AS A CARRIER OF SUPPLIES AND PERSONNEL BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND OUTLYING AREAS NOT SERVICED BY REGULAR AIRLINES. THE GOS IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT INQUIRIES RWHTE FIRM AND WE HAPQ NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXAMINE THE COMPANY'S FILE AT THE REGISTRY OF COMPANIES. HOWEVER, ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVES ARE ONG KAH KOK AND CHEW SWEE CHUA AND IT IS CONTROLLED BY SHENG LI HOLDING CO. (A MIN DEF HOLDING COMPANY).

2. ALTHOUGH NAME IS INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION, M.T. CHANG MAY BE CHANG MING THIEN, A WEALTHY MALAYSIAN CHINESE WITH INVESTMENTS IN BANKING, HOTELS AND PTDUSZMY, MOSTLY IN MALAYSIA. HE IS SAID TO HAVE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN FOLLOWING FIRMS: FABER MERLIN MALAYSIA BHD., UNITED MALAYAN BANKING  
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02098 190553Z

CORPORATION GROUP, UNITED MALAYAN AGRICULTURAL CORPORATION BHD.,

PAPER PRODUCTS (M) BHD., UNITED MALAYAN FLOUR MILLS BHD., AND SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING SINGAPORE COMPANIES: HOTEL MERLIN SINGAPORE LTD., KHONG GUAN FLOUR MILLS LTD., NATIONAL IRON & STEEL MILLS LTD. IN SINGAPORE, CHANG MING THIEN IS JUST ONE OF THE MORE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN, BUT IN MALAYSIA HE IS REPORTEDLY NOT ONLY PROMINENT BUT ALSO INFLUENTIAL THROUGH HIS GOOD CONTACTS IN THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN ALLEDGED, BUT NOT CONFIRMED, THAT CHANG MING THIEN WAS FORMERLY ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING AND IS AN OPPORTUNISTIC AND ADVENTUROUS BUSINESSMAN. HIS BUSINESS CONNECTIONS WITH THAILAND MAY NOT BE AS STRONG AS THOSE WITH MALAYSIA, BUT THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS GOOD. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH HIM EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN THEIR DEALINGS.

3. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT TIES WITH AIR SIAM BY EITHER AIR CHARTER ENTERPRISES OR CHANG MING THIEN, BUT EMBASSY WILL FORWARD THIS INFORMATION IF IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. CRONK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REORGANIZATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS, GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** CIVAIR: PROSPECTS FOR AIR SIAM  
**TAGS:** EAIR, TH, SN, US, AIR SIAM, TIA, (CHANG MING THIEN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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